



BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

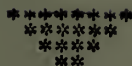
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1967



Public Health Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

Telephone: Droitwich 2352.

August, 1968.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

The reception of overspill families into the town from Birmingham began in February, 1967 and continued throughout the year. This is confirmed by the fact that 210 houses were erected (mainly on the new Chawson Estate) compared with 51 the previous year. Town Development is likely to continue more rapidly, plans already being in hand for the Boycott Estate, and two schools being well on the way to completion. After much deliberation, and some disagreement on the Town Centre Plan, by February 1968 it was decided that the scheme originally submitted should be approved in outline, and authority was given for the preparation of statutory documents for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

What effect has the immigrant population had upon the Health Services of the town? Basically there has been no change (see Section "B"), but it is evident that a considerable number of young children have arrived. The number on the Register (between 0-5 years) was 745 compared with 601 the previous year, and attendances at the Infant Welfare Centre have been increasing steadily. General Practitioners' Surgeries have also been much busier, so it is obvious that the Medical Profession will have to get geared up to deal with the incoming population.

Town Centre development is bound to disrupt existing medical facilities in the town to some extent. Discussions have already taken place concerning the provision of a Health Centre, and this is generally favoured, but it is likely to be 7 to 10 years before such a scheme reaches fruition. In the meantime the work will continue with improved Group Practice facilities and various modifications to the Local Health Authority Services. It is hoped that Clinics and Surgeries on the new Housing Estates will be strongly resisted. The size of the town will never be large enough to warrant it, and the provision of a regular bus service would be preferable for other reasons.

Steady improvement in the Environmental Health Services for the town is taking place (e.g. Slum Clearance, Refuse Collection and Sewage Disposal). This should be evident in reading the rest of the Report.

I wish to congratulate Mr. G. L. Robinson, our Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector on the painstaking care with which he has laid plans for these improvements and the way in which they are now working out. The 'Pasveer' Ditch (although due credit must be given to its inventor) is a "feather in his cap", and has given a lead in Sewage treatment in the Midlands which has been needed for some time. It works and it is cheap - which is more than can be said for many conventional treatment works - and that is what matters.

I remain, Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

LSS/MGM.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid-1967	8,970
Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1967 (according to Rate books)	2,773
Rateable value at 31st March, 1967	£367,936
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1967	£1,525

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	73	77	150	
Illegitimate	3	5	8	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				5.1%
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population			...	17.6
Birth Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	17.2
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	3	3	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				24.7
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales			...	14.8
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	52	47	99	
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population			...	7.6
Death Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	11.2
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			...	6
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales			...	18
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>				
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			...	6
Neonatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales			...	12
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births			...	31
Perinatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales			...	25
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births				Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

(in accordance with the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955).

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. " " lung, bronchus	3	-	3
12. " " Breast	-	1	1
13. " " Uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	4	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	8	20
18. Coronary disease, angina	6	6	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20. Other heart diseases	6	7	13
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	5	7
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	5	8
24. Bronchitis	2	3	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Pephrosis	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	-	1	1
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide	-	-	-
Total	52	47	99

End of Section "A"

SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is provided by the Hospital Management Committee. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

(b) Home Help Service

This service has now been taken over by the County Council from the W.V.S. being administered from the Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in case of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 12 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

General	77	(53)
Maternity	7	(3)
Tuberculosis	Nil	(1)

(figures in brackets are for the previous year)

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully, 2,282 (2,497) meals being served during the year.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year, 4,099 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 4,760 the previous year.

There were 745 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December, 1967 compared with 601 the previous year. The marked increase is due to a steady flow of new (overspill) families into the town.

The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioners. A physiotherapist, Midwife and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's Clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1967:-

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation (including Tetanus)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	164	(147)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year	396	(351)
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year	157	(145)
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year	132	(86)
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	125	(141)
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	...	...	...	8	(8)
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)					

(iv) Polio-myelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a lump of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 3 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.

(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation.
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual activity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronkswood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic disease, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St. John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks, but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analyses of Water, Sewage Food, Drugs, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

End of Section "B"

SECTION "C" -- SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gall water tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from six boreholes near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all six boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date 17.4.67	No. of Colonies growing on Agar		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli.	Remarks
	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 22°C			
No.1 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	3	2	Nil	-	Satisfactory
No.1 Borehole Burcot P/Station	Nil	35	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Sugarbrook P/Station	Nil	40	Nil	-	"
Old Engine House Washing- stocks	3	1	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Washing- stocks P. Station	Nil	45	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	2	50	Nil	-	"

Chemical Analysis

Wildmoor No.1 Borehole, 18th September, 1967

Colour	Colourless	
Odour	None	
Deposit	None	pH 6.9

Chemical ExaminationParts per million

Suspended Matter (Dried at 100°C)	-
Total dissolved solids (dried at 180°C)	180
Chlorine present as Chlorine	15
Hardness Non-Carbonate	40
" Carbonate	60
" Total	100
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.02
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Trace
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27° C)	0.20
Toxic Metals	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	0.1
Fluorine	-
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)	-
Phosphates (as P.O ₄)	-
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	24

Analyst's Report: The sample is fit for drinking.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent action but is fairly hard

(d) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough Boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2903
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	2

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The existing Sewage Disposal plant at the Hampton Road works continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. The overload on the works was relieved to a large extent by the diversion of a considerable volume of crude sewage to the new 'Pasveer' Ditch. This ditch has now been operating satisfactorily for over 12 months, and the Borough Surveyor reports in more detail in his section of the Report. A careful analysis of the efficiency of the plant is being made in conjunction with the County Analyst as a second plant has been approved as part of the new Disposal Works at Ladywood.

The land has been acquired for the new Works and work has commenced on the layout of the site at Ladywood. Also some progress had been made with the Trunk Sewer to Ladywood and branch sewers for the Newland and Boycott development. This means that development in these areas should be able to proceed. The development around Newland Hill is, however, dependent upon the completion of the second 'Pasveer' ditch and the elimination of the Princes Avenue Ejector Station which may take another 12 months. Nevertheless, progress has been very satisfactory.

3. Refuse Disposal

Tipping on the Borough Refuse Tip adjacent to the King George V Playing Fields was discontinued during 1966. This has enabled the tip to be completely covered over and no fly nuisance has since been observed.

An agreement has been entered into to take the refuse from the Borough to the Rural District tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood, which is being run on improved lines, and this arrangement seems to be very

3. Refuse Disposal (Contd)

satisfactory. Nevertheless, the continued tipping of refuse on this site may produce difficulties when it comes to laying the foundations for houses and flats, as this area is scheduled for residential development. It is essential that a permanent tipping site be found for town expansion, and this must now be done in conjunction with the Rural District Council.

A general improvement has been effected in the refuse collection service for the town, large bins being used for industrial premises, and plastic sacks for the new Council houses. Details are available in the Borough Surveyor's Report.

4. Public Health Inspections

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean Air, Caravans, Factories, Rodent Control, etc., and details are included in the Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, involved a considerable amount of work, but has been well worth while. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.

5. Rodent Control

Inspections were carried out by the Rodent Operative in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. No major infestations were encountered, and the work involved was not substantial. None of the sewers were found to be infested, but it is interesting to note that some minor infestations were related to the demolition of old buildings.

1 9 6 7	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	<u>Domestic and business premises</u>	<u>Agricultural Buildings</u>
Number of properties in the District	2,936	6
Total number of properties inspected	113	2
Number infested by (i) Rats	90	2
(ii) Mice	2	-

End of Section "C"

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1967:-

1967

A.	<u>Number of new houses erected:-</u>	
(i)	By the Local Authority	202
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	8
B.	<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>	
(i)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act)	94
(ii)	Number of re-inspections	90
(iii)	Under the Housing Acts	
	Number of inspections	20
	Number of re-inspections	140
C.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
1.	<u>Under the Public Health Acts</u>	
(a)	Number of notices served	15
(b)	Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices	
(i)	By owners	15
(ii)	By Local Authority	Nil
2.	<u>Under the Housing Act, 1957</u>	
(a)	Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil
(b)	Number of notices served (Section 16)	5
(c)	Number of undertakings accepted	Nil
(d)	Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	5
(e)	Number of houses demolished during the year	3
D.	<u>Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act, 1957)</u>	
1.	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	3
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	26
2.	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
	(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
3.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil

CLEARANCE AREAS

Bromsgrove Road (No.1) Clearance Order - 5 houses was confirmed by the Minister on the 30th March, 1967.

The Holloway Compulsory Purchase Order 1966 was confirmed by the Minister on 25th September, 1967:-

15	Coloured Pink (as unfit)
9	" Grey (for purchase)

End of Section "D"

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of all food premises in the town was carried out during the year. The various categories of premises dealt with are shown below and the number of inspections carried out dealt with in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. It will be observed that all premises complied with Regulation 16 (Hand washbasins) and Regulation 19 (Sinks) where required:-

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Licensed Premises	28
Grocers	18
Greengrocers	6
Confectioners	5
Wet Fish Shop	1
Fish & Chip Shops	2
Cafe's	8
Butchers' shops	8
Bakehouses	3
Works Canteens	3
Registered premises for the sale of	
Ice Cream	26
School Meals Kitchens	6
Institution Kitchens	4
	<hr/>
Total number of premises	<u>118</u>

Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 - 18
Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies - 63
Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 - 63

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and 26 retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently, and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The Gradings of Samples taken during the year are shown below:-

1 9 6 7	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Hard Ice Cream	35	27	3	5	-
Soft Ice-Cream	10	4	2	1	3
Manufacturers' samples taken at various stages along the production line	30	22	4	2	2

In addition, 42 Ice Lollies were sampled and 37 were considered satisfactory. This produce is not graded according to the Methylene Blue Test, but Coliform counts are carried out and investigations made in the factory when necessary.

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dealers' Licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Only limited sampling was carried out during the year, but results were satisfactory.

	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	2	Satisfactory
Sterilized Milk	-	-
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	-	-
Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests are used or Guinea Pig inoculation if considered necessary.	-11-	Contd/

Examination of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

- 4 lbs. of Canned Grapefruit
- 30 lbs. of Canned Pineapples
- 8 lbs. of Canned Beans
- 24 lbs. of Bacon
- 6 lbs. of Canned Fruit Salad
- 3 lbs. of Canned Peaches
- 12 lbs. of Canned Tongue
- 4 lbs. of Canned Soup
- 11 lbs. of Canned Tomatoes
- 12 lbs. of Canned Blackcurrants

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1967

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Polio-myelitis	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Under 1 year	7	-	-	-	1	-	1
1 - 2 years	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 years +	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 years +	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	74	-	-	-	1	-	1

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1967 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1967	7	6	-	1
Additions to register during the year	1	-	-	-
- new cases	-	1	-	-
- Transfers	8	7	-	1
Deductions from register during the year	-	3	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1967	8	4	-	1

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on two occasions during 1967. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but few applications for assistance are being received.

End of Section "F"

SECTION "G"

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1967:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	61	38	4
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	64	41	4

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Factory Inspector</u>	<u>No.of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
1. Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
2. Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
3. Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
5. Ineffective drainage of Floors	-	-	-	-	-
6. Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	2	-

Number of outworkers - NIL

End of Section "G"

August, 1968.

To: His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Droitwich Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my 23rd Annual Report of work carried out during the year 1967. I have commented on many different items reflected in the work of the department, probably the most important are those relating to the provision of new sewers and sewage disposal works. With the rapid growth of the town, the flow received at the sewage disposal works is increasing considerably, so much so that the permanent 'Pasveer' ditch at Ladywood will not come into operation any too soon, and by that time, the present sewage works and temporary 'Pasveer' ditch will be operating to capacity.

A good deal of housing work has been carried out during the year. This will be noted in the report with particular reference to the larger clearance areas and the very successful infilling programme which the Housing Committee undertook, primarily with bungalows and flats, all of which have proved most popular.

Once again I would take this opportunity of thanking the Town Clerk and my other colleagues for their co-operation and assistance, particularly to all the loyal members of my staff for their support during the year, and especially to your Council for your helpful advice and direction of the Department's work. I would particularly like to mention the sound work undertaken by Mr. Hill, your Additional Public Health Inspector and the conscientious way he carries out his various duties.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below:-

Accumulations found	11
Visits under Pet Animals Act	5
Visits to Piggeries	3
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	9
Drains tested	2
Drains found defective	5
Visits to Works in Progress	12
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Visits re: Improvement Grants	109
Repairs and Public Health Conditions	71
Re-inspections re above	78
Housing Act inspections	20
" " re-inspections	140
Visits to Factories re Trade Effluents	19
<u>Rodent Control</u>	
Primary visits	23
Re-visits	27
Factory Act Visits	38

Food Hygiene

Visits to:	
Butchers' shops	25
Bakehouses	15
Confectioners' shops	20
Grocers	25
Greengrocers	17
Fried Fish & Chip shops	32
Ice Cream shops and Manufacturers	117
Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School Kitchens	55
Factory Canteens	17
Licensed Premises	24

Visits:-

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	70
Clean Air Act	11
Water Supplies	10
Council Tip	-
Caravans	50
Lido	10
Sewage Works	68
Miscellaneous visits	115
Food Vending and Delivery Vehicles	6
Noise Abatement visits	5
Sewage Works samples taken	168
County Analyst	46
Public Health Laboratory	43

Housing

During the year 8 houses were represented to the Borough Council as being unfit and 5 Demolition and 3 Closing Orders were made. The tenants of 5 houses, the subject of either Closing or Demolition Orders were rehoused by the Borough Council during the year.

A small terrace of five houses in Hill End was made the subject of a Clearance Order, which was confirmed by the Minister. The Council decided not to acquire the property.

A further terrace of 24 houses, Nos.51 - 91, The Holloway, was made the subject of a Clearance Order, which was confirmed by the Minister in September. Subsequently, the Borough Council decided to buy this site with a view to redevelopment with suitable accommodation for aged persons.

Nos.50-64, Worcester Road were represented to the Borough Council, who made a Clearance Order, which had not been confirmed at the end of the year.

Council House Improvements and Modernisation

The year under review saw the third improvement scheme to Council house property under way. This included a contract to recondition and modernise houses in Charles Henry Road and Elizabeth Avenue. This kind of scheme which was a major one, undoubtedly causes some inconvenience to tenants for a period of about three weeks in respect of each house but on completion, without exception, the tenants are found to be well pleased and satisfied with the improvements.

In the latter part of the year, the Council decided to go ahead with the improvement of Council houses in Albert Street and St. Richards Gardens and this will complete the modernisation of all the pre-war houses, except those in Vines Lane, which fall within the Town Development Area and whose future may be uncertain.

The Firs, a dwelling house at Wheelers Bridge, acquired by the Borough Council by way of the Development Committee which manages the property, was improved, assistance being obtained by a Grant. The house, which houses a large family, was very damp, and a damp course was provided, other works to abate the dampness executed, and limited central heating provided.

Council House Maintenance and Building

The Hanbury Road Housing Estate was completed during the year and proved an additional useful series of houses and bungalows for letting. The Infilling programme has continued and the contract was up to date being completed in December. This series of flats and bungalows has proved most popular. At the end of the year, the Borough Council were considering embarking upon a further scheme of 10 bungalows off Pridzor Road and a further 3 bungalows off Steynors Avenue. Steps were taken during the year to improve the appearance of the Old Chawson Estate. This was done by widening the road and providing footpaths and reducing some of the very large gardens to the houses, throwing this land into the public thoroughfare and suitably grassing it down. A new and tidy fence was erected and steps were taken in conjunction with the Chawson I development to clean up the pond, filling it in and making it into a children's play area. This has resulted in the tidying up of the whole development and was nearing completion at the end of the year.

164 houses were painted during the year, some 152 by contract and 12 by direct labour.

Improvement Grants

Seven Improvement Grants were made during the year. There is no doubt that improvement provides a useful way of retaining older houses and modernising them. Details are as follows:-

STANDARD GRANTS

	<u>Amounts paid</u>
Newland Hurst Cottage, Primsland	£225. 0. 0d.
No.23, Princes Avenue	£110.15. 0d.
No.13, Princes Avenue	£155. 0. 0d.
No.29, Princes Avenue	£129. 0. 0d.
No.11, West Street	£155. 0. 0d.
No.14, Ombersley Street	£155. 0. 0d.

DISCRETIONARY GRANT

No.19, Station Street	£244.10. 0d.
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Private Building

Private house building has, except for a small amount of infilling, practically ceased due to the overloading of the sewage disposal system. This past year has seen work commenced upon the construction of the Trunk Sewer from Ladywood up to Droitwich together with the branches to Falsam Pits and Beyerott, and permission was also obtained to build a permanent 'Pasveer' ditch at Ladywood, and this has allowed the Borough Council to issue Planning permission for three large sites in the south eastern part of the Borough. These extensive sites will enable probably some 1200 houses to be built. It is anticipated that work of building will commence on all three during 1968, the first discharges to the sewer being in the latter part of the year. This will allow substantial private house building once again to proceed in the town.

Planning permission for the development of the south eastern part of the town was given after a very considerable amount of negotiation. All three sites had need of a trunk sewer which the Borough Council negotiated with the three developers, who entered into an agreement to provide a sewer, a proportionate part of the cost to be borne by each party, the Borough Council agreeing to carry out the work of construction.

In connection with the development south east of the Borough, the Borough Council took a very interested and active part in the examination of plans and on two occasions made visits to development in progress out of town to see the type of building envisaged.

At the end of the year the design of the trunk sewer and pumping station required for the estates was in progress. It will be necessary to widen the northern part of Newland Road at the junction with Oakland Avenue and again similar negotiations were successfully concluded for substantial contributions to be made to the cost of the work by the two developers fronting onto the site.

A change of use was granted in respect of Ayrshire House to be changed from a private hotel to offices for Messrs. Impalco. As agreed by the developers, Ayrshire house was maintained in the condition to which we had all be used, and no obvious alterations were made to the property.

Messrs. Yentons again commenced to build at their St. Andrew's Estate, plans were approved for the completion of the estate with a number of detached houses and two blocks of three storey development.

A small development was commenced at Orchardlea off The Holloway. Orchardlea itself was demolished and a road access made for erection of seven dwellings.

The application of the new building regulations is still an exhaustive process and several applications for relaxation of the regulations have been received. At the end of the year the Ministry's decision upon these applications was awaited.

Planning control is inevitably difficult, most people wishing to build having their own ideas as to the type of house they would like to build. Frequently this is taken from a house they have seen elsewhere on a totally different type of site, which is often quite unsuited for the area proposed in the Borough. This undoubtedly leads to many difficulties.

Considerable discussion took place upon proposals to recondition Rose Cottages in Vines Lane. Eventually, after prolonged negotiations, approval was given to the proposals.

Town Development

As Town Development gets into its stride and the momentum increases, the work load spreads into other sections of the department not previously much affected. In particular this is noticeable in the clerical work. Wages, stores records and all the other many duties appurtenant to these are increasing considerably. In the same way secretarial work increases and the number of telephone calls received through the switchboard becomes heavy, as many as 300 calls passing through the exchange in a single day, each outgoing call requiring the telephonist to dial a number and obtain the person required.

The Chawson Estate road and sewer works were completed and the pedestrian underpasses likewise. The scheme for roads and sewers at Boycott was prepared, and the spine road constructed.

The Droitwich Spa properties were acquired during the year, and these have provided many other buildings and open spaces to maintain some of which are not in particularly good condition. One of these was

Priory House in connection with which, under the direction of Mr.F.W.B.Charles, the Consulting Architect, various temporary additional structures were removed and also much of the internal plaster, to allow air to circulate the building.

Refuse Collection

A regular refuse collection service has been maintained throughout the whole year, and I am glad to be able to report that very few complaints have been received regarding this service. At the beginning of the year, a new Shelvoke & Drewry lorry was delivered, to which was attached apparatus for bulk loading. The larger premises in the town, such as hotels and industries were asked if they would provide containers instead of ashbins which they had been using in the past, which rapidly became dilapidated. The businesses concerned were most co-operative and I think, without exception, provided one or more containers. The containers are on rollers and easy to handle. This allows quick handling upon the day of collection, the container being merely rolled out to the vehicle where a mechanical arm lifts up the container and empties it directly into the refuse lorry. This is much more hygienic, and certainly saves a good deal of labour.

With the coming into occupation of houses at Chawson the refuse service has had to be extended quite quickly from week to week throughout the year. At Chawson plastic sacks have been used rather than the conventional dustbin, this being quite convenient, particularly as all the houses are centrally heated and therefore have no ashes for collection. Sacks are very hygienic and popular with the tenants and the collectors. With the Radburn layout of the Chawson plan, it was decided to alter the system of collection, and instead of having a large refuse lorry going to every house, one of the small electric trucks has been adapted to traverse the footpaths to the dwellings, the plastic sacks being loaded into the truck and then unloaded at one or two convenient points. The refuse lorry then goes to these points and very quickly removes the sacks. This has caused little trouble and avoids having a large lorry and loaders waiting for long periods at the estate.

With the completion of Chawson anticipated early in 1969 and the commencement of Boycott, it is more than likely that another refuse lorry will be needed at the end of the coming year.

Refuse Disposal

Throughout the whole of the year, refuse disposal has been at the Briar Coppice tip of the Rural District Council. This has operated quite satisfactorily and no difficulty has been experienced. The Rural District Council are negotiating for the right to tip refuse in the pit at the Hanbury Wharf Brick Company's premises. At the close of the year it was understood an agreement had been reached and it was further understood that tipping at Hanbury could in fact commence about next September.

Consideration of a number of alternative schemes of pulverisation and refuse reclamation have been considered during the year, but none have been found which would prove satisfactory. One tends to think that in these times of difficulties due to the excess of imports over exports waste materials from refuse should be used. Refuse itself is a material which should be capable of breaking down and at least be used for breaking up heavy land rather than the almost complete wastage, except for land reclamation in filling in of tips. I think it is likely that the day will come when authorities will have a method of reclamation, only completely unusable objects being taken to the tip.

Salvage Collection

Salvage was collected as follows during the year:-

Mixed Waste Paper	£210. 12. 0d.
Scrap Metal	30. 10. 0d.
	<u>£241. 2. 0d.</u>

Sewage Disposal Works

The main sewage disposal plant has operated as satisfactorily as can be expected in view of its loading during the past year. It is still overloaded but the effluent has been of a rather improved standard over the previous year due to the reduction in flow, with the coming into use of the 'Pasveer' ditch. The Manager has carefully managed the sewage works and with the reduced flow it has been possible to rest the filters somewhat, and these are now in a much better condition than they have been for some years.

The 'Pasveer' ditch itself has now operated most satisfactorily for over a year. It has caused a great deal of interest throughout the country and representatives of Local Authorities and their Engineers have come to view the plant from many places, even as far away as Scotland. I have been keeping a close watch on its operation, and with the co-operation of the County Analyst and the County Health Inspector (with the approval of the County Council) arrangements have been made for regular samplings of the ditch at various points in the process of purification in order to keep a record of operation. No charge is being made by the County Council for this service. As our experience with the 'Pasveer' oxidation ditch grows we become better acquainted with its limitations and capacity. There is no doubt whatever that properly maintained and carefully looked after, the 'Pasveer' oxidation ditch will produce a first class effluent for the flow for which it has been designed.

It is not particularly elastic and it will not take a surge of flows greater than the designed figure. If large flows, particularly in the form of surges are put through the plant sludge tends to be discharged from the clarifying tank and the standard of effluent will quickly deteriorate. The amount of maintenance work required upon the ditch is very small and skilled supervision some two or three hours a day by one man will enable the plant to be properly maintained. The effluent is of good appearance, chemically satisfactory and there is no unpleasant smell from the plant.

With the construction of the permanent 'Pasveer' ditch at Ladywood we hope that the growing pains experienced with the temporary plant will be overcome and the widely different flows which we now experience and which cause some embarrassment, will be prevented.

At the end of the year, tenders were being invited for the construction of the new works at Ladywood and also a permanent 'Pasveer' ditch on the same site. It is very evident from the rapid growth of the town, that before these works are completed the main sewage works will require careful handling to avoid an unsatisfactory effluent and in fact when the new 'Pasveer' ditch and new plant at Ladywood come into operation, they may well be operating to capacity in a very short period. It seems likely that the second section of the permanent works will have to be put in hand very quickly.

In order to prepare evidence concerning the type of sewage received at the works, the amount of flow through the works and the type of trade effluent being discharged, a careful and systematic sampling programme has been prepared to be examined by Messrs. Bostock, Hill & Rigby, our Consulting Chemists, and a further Lea Recorder has been installed for a trial period at the sewage works. At the present time, very little knowledge is available of the flow at the works and of the strength of crude sewage and trade wastes entering it.

Sewers

These have been maintained satisfactorily and very little trouble has been experienced. The usual jetting programme of the last two or three years was continued, and while this is expensive, there is no doubt whatever that it is a very satisfactory method of ensuring the least trouble in the sewers.

Work upon the construction of the trunk sewers from Ladywood up to Droitwich was in hand and also two branch sewers, one to Falsam Pits and the other to Boycott were well under way by the end of the year. Construction of the sewer in these water meadows has not been easy.

Some flooding has regularly taken place in time of heavy rain at the rear of Queen Street. We hope that this will gradually be eased as the Falsam Pits and Princes Avenue Ejectors are dispensed with, after the Ladywood works come into full operation.

High Street Ejector has been giving some concern inasmuch as it is now, even in dry periods, operating almost to full capacity. The Borough Council has therefore decided to supplement this plant by means of a 'Flygt' pump. The Ministry has given approval, and works are to proceed.

Highways

Highways have been maintained throughout the year and the triennial surface dressing of all district roads was carried out. This year, partly to save money, the main roads were dressed with slag and the district roads with gravel. The use of gravel presents a much brighter appearance in residential streets, where the traffic is not sufficient to polish the stones. There is a tendency for gravel dressing to be more subject to the tar bleeding than with slag.

The Verro vacuum sweeper has continued in use and has proved most satisfactory.

A trouble experienced during the Autumn was that of mud being deposited on carriageways from the various sites being developed in the town. These are reaching a large number and at the end of the year, I recommended to the Borough Council that some satisfactory form of mechanical cleansing should be carried out in order that this mud could be removed daily from the streets. A suitable plant was on hire for a trial period to ascertain that it was in fact satisfactory for the purpose.

Fortunately, due to a very competitive tender being obtained for the surface dressing of the highways, a little money became available which your Council decided to utilise in improving the condition of the Covercroft Car Park. This was done by grading and twice surface dressing the car park, lining out, and it has been much appreciated by the users. The number of persons using this car park is growing steadily, and it is not unusual to find it completely filled. There is also an increasing and undesirable use as a thoroughfare for cars from Ombersley Street to Winnetts Lane.

A problem presented itself in the town centre with the fouling of the footpaths near Salters Hall by pigeons roosting on nearby roofs at night. After some investigation, it was decided to trap the birds. This was done and the birds were taken to the local R.S.P.C.A. Auxiliary, who humanely destroyed them.

A difficult Public Health problem relating to Highways is the parking of caravans upon Queen Street Car Park and land surrounding. There are no public conveniences in this vicinity of the town, and whilst Notices are displayed saying that caravans are not permitted, itinerant scrap metal merchants continue to make a habit of parking. This causes considerable annoyance to the nearby residents and the car park is left in a most insanitary and untidy condition. On several occasions, following notices served by the Town Clerk, arrangements had to be made to tow the vans from

the park. On no occasion had this become necessary, however, the owners of the vans moving of their own free will, before towing was brought into operation.

There is urgent need for the provision of a number of controlled and suitable sites for these itinerant families in different parts of the County.

Street Lighting

A major scheme was carried out for the general improvement of street lighting in district roads bringing the roads in the scheme up to Ministry of Transport standard. The Borough Council have decided that major routes shall be lit with sodium lighting Class 'A' standard, and residential roads with colour corrected mercury Class 'B' standard. It was felt that this scheme of lighting could be introduced and lighting improved in all those areas of the town which it was known would not be affected by Town Development.

As a result, improved street lighting has taken place in the following areas of the town:-

The whole of the New Witton Estate
The whole of the Old " "
The whole of St.Peter's Estate
Corbett Avenue
Lyttelton Road
St.Peter's Road
Corbett Street
St.Mary's Road
Nunnery Avenue
Manning Road
Albert Street
St.Richard's Gardens

Canal

Discussions have been continuing throughout the past year with British Railways concerning their proposal to dismantle the iron bridge over the canal and replace with an embankment. At the same time the Development Committee have been giving consideration to the possibility of the reclamation of the canal and its continued use as a waterway. As a result, an agreement has been reached with British Railways that a conduit below the proposed embankment adequate for sewers and services shall be provided together with a bridge of sufficient size to allow boats to pass through. Should the canal not be reclaimed as a waterway then this bridge will be used as a pedestrian and cycle underpass.

Practically the whole of the canal through Vines Park has been filled in and part has been top soiled, levelled and seeded down.

The bridge adjoining Salwarpe Court became defective during the year and rather than renew the bridge, it was decided to fill in the canal at this point, providing a hardcore surface in order that traffic may safely cross. Should the canal revert to a waterway, it will not be difficult to remove this material.

Lido

A particularly good season was enjoyed at the Lido during 1967 when favourable weather was experienced and a good many patrons attended the pool. The Superintendent maintained the Lido to a satisfactory standard, but there are many improvements one would like to make.

Parks and Open Spaces

The Parks and Open Spaces have been maintained during the year in as good a condition as available labour and finance would allow. The Parks Superintendent has completed a year's work with your Council and I feel he is proving that the appointment has been well worth while. For what I think is the first time, no complaints were received concerning either bowling greens, both of which were maintained in good condition.

The playing fields were well used, and the Poplars Meadow has now settled down, providing good cricket facilities.

The continuous increase in Open Spaces is providing a problem in maintenance, particularly during the peak period of June and July, when it is almost impossible to keep the grass as regularly cut as one would wish.

Some temporary labour is employed for this purpose, but it would seem that in order to maintain adequate strength it will be necessary to develop the direct labour capacity of the department so that men employed upon grass cutting can be offered a full time job.

A number of small direct labour works have been carried out for the Town Development Committee.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

